

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 31 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
31 MAY 1967

1. Arab States -
Israel
(As of 5:30 AM EDT)

There have been no major developments overnight.

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Press reports yesterday implied the Soviets were suddenly strengthening their Mediterranean squadron. These reports appear to be a somewhat alarmist pick-up of routine Soviet navy activity.

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Nasir, having received King Husayn's surrender, is turning his attention to other moderate Arabs. The Cairo press has been turning the screw on Libya with charges that the US is shipping weapons to Israel through Wheelus Air Force Base. Soviet commentary on the crisis is relatively restrained.

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2. Jordan

King Husayn's "secret" trip to Cairo yesterday was about as secret as an Easter egg roll on the White House lawn. Nasir, in a clear double-cross, gave Husayn maximum publicity to make sure the whole world knows of Jordan's surrender and to make it virtually impossible for Husayn to renege later.

Despite Egyptian pledges to handle the whole affair quietly, almost every radical Arab in Cairo was on hand to greet Husayn when he arrived and the first press release came less than two hours after his plane touched down.

Husayn signed a joint defense pact with Egypt--the proceedings were broadcast live--and then flew home, leaving his scalp nailed to Nasir's lodge pole.

The defense pact stipulates that Husayn will put his forces under Nasir's command in case of war. 50X1

the King may have to sack some of his pro-Western cabinet ministers. 50X1

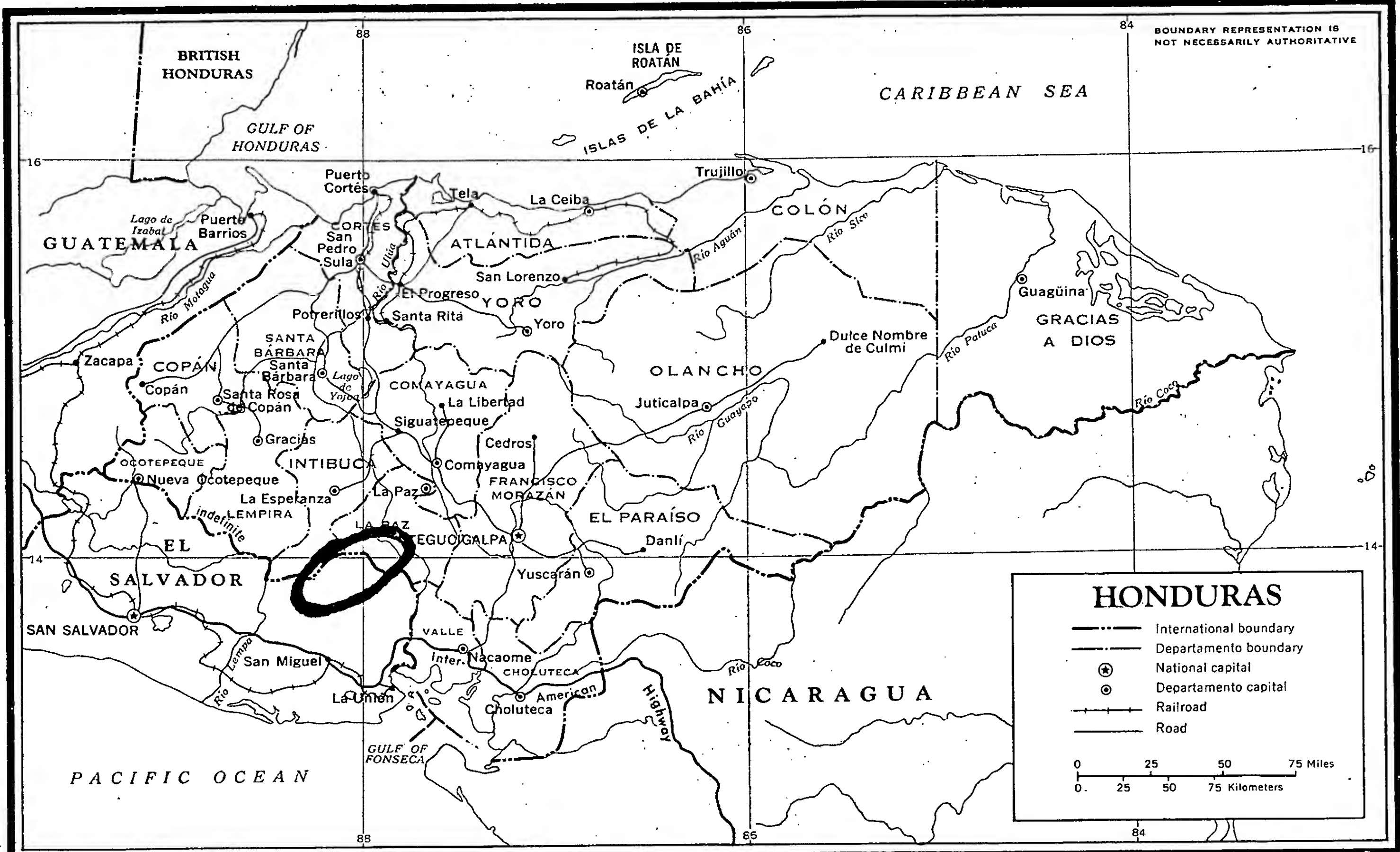
3. South Vietnam

as we go to press there have been no significant enemy attacks for 48 hours. 50X1

There still are plenty of signs that the enemy anticipates some heavy fighting, but recent allied operations along the Demilitarized Zone may well have spoiled his timetable.

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4. South Vietnam

Ky confirms that he has reached an "understanding" with former prime minister Huong, the leading civilian contender for the presidency. He told Ambassador Bunker on Monday that the two men have agreed that if either wins the election he will bring the other into the government. Ky again spoke confidently of winning and said he would ask other defeated candidates also to join him in setting up a government representing "a broad spectrum of the voters."

Ky also said he intends this week to have a heart-to-heart talk with General Thieu. He is still hopeful of an "arrangement" under which Thieu will abandon the presidential race.

5. France

The first shot in this year's nuclear weapons test series should be on Thursday, winds and weather near the South Pacific test site permitting. There probably will be three tests this summer, all of relatively small yield devices.

6. Honduras

The long-standing border dispute between Honduras and El Salvador has warmed up after two recent incidents including an armed clash Monday afternoon. It is not yet clear who shot first at whom, but both sides report casualties and both are reinforcing their frontier garrisons. A joint commission is to investigate the incidents.

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